

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. These actions also demonstrate how our "market place of ideas" suffers; In media, when someone can choose only one news source because it panders to their viewpoint, citizens do not receive educated views which are key to public welfare.

We need regulation and reform in our nation's media if these decisions are going to continue, as well as the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.